

THE STROBE

THE NEWSPAPER OF FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

Issue 11

Wednesday, December 4, 1996

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**Happy Holidays from
The Strobe!**
See you next semester...

Hey Dude!
Good luck
on Finals!



New course offered: Billiards 3100, Professor Mason Fitch



photo by philip maiewski

FSC student Mason Fitch, the Game Room Manager, shoots the 13 in the corner pocket at last month's Eight-Ball Tournament. FSC student Jake Shattuck won first place and will represent our school in the state finals. Story on page 9.

Boucher honored as first *Year of the Citizen* Employee



Dr. Ann May, Stephanie Boucher, President Riccards: Kudos for an FSC employee

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

President Riccards awarded the first certificate of appreciation of the Year of the Citizen Employee Recognition program to Stephanie Boucher, who works at McKay in the teacher certification area.

Boucher, a 1972 graduate of Fitchburg State College, has been an employee of the college since 1988.

She helped prepare for the important NCATE accreditation and has assisted with various aspects of MAT programs, including the development of practicum handbooks. She helped instrument the relocation and revamping of the McKay Resource Center and cataloging of the materials.

A lieutenant, firefighter, and EMT for the town of Westminster, Boucher assists the McKay school nurse and the campus Rescue/Respond unit whenever necessary.

As a Eucharistic minister at St. Edwards, she makes home visits to the terminally ill of the parish. Boucher also serves as the secretary-treasurer for the Worcester West Forest Wardens Association and has donated many hours helping the organization provide environmental education and mutual aid searches, rescues, and disasters. She raises money for the Firefighters Association scholarships program and "File of Life" cards endeavor for senior citizens.

Boucher's favorite activity, though, is playing Smokey the Bear for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Annual Boot-a-thon, and also collecting "Tolls" for Jerry's kids.

x172 for more information.

Sophomore Vanessa Manni will return next semester as the News Editor.

Business Majors listen up!

by Presley Reese
Staff Writer

Question: what is one of the top three reasons why businesses fail?

Answer: poor customer service.

Learning how to keep customers coming back will be the topic of the next small business workshop. It will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1996 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Twin Cities Community Development

Corporation Office, One Oak Hill Road in Fitchburg.

Al Dufresne, principal of his company "New Concepts in Training," will lead the discussion to answer these questions: 1) how can we identify and meet our customers' needs, 2) how can we turn customer complaints into cash, 3) how can we reduce advertising costs by keeping our customers coming back?

This workshop is open to any entrepreneur or anyone already in business. It is free, although

donations are welcome at the door. The workshop is sponsored by the Twin Cities CDC, and funded in part by the City of Fitchburg Community Development Block Grant program, the Job Training Partnership Act, and the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, and local financial institutions. Please call 342-9561 to preregister.

Does your favorite faculty member seem worthy?

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

President Riccards has launched the Year of the Citizen Employee Recognition Program. This program recognizes one college employee every month for the academic year on

the basis of his or her dedicated commitment and service to the city and college community.

Nominations for this award are made by faculty members as well as students, then reviewed by a committee appointed by the president.

Some guidelines that apply when choosing a nominee: 1)

they must be a current full-status employee of two years service, work study and graduate students are ineligible; 2) the nominee must demonstrate dedication and commitment to the college itself and/or the community.

The dedicated employee receives a certificate of apprecia-

IN THIS
ISSUE



Dinelle Finch gets a loving memorial from her FSC Sistas.

See layout, page 3.



Sports! Look one last time at Fall intramurals.

See Photo Spread, page 11.

Adventure! Adventure! Adventure!

by Karen Buckley
Correspondent

Christy Potter, President of the Cogito Ergo Sum (C.E.S.) Society, has announced that members will formalize plans for a week-long, Spring Break trip to a foreign country, dubbed Project Adventure.

The purpose of the trip will be to give C.E.S. members a cultural and educational experience, and to promote awareness between people with and without disabilities,

the primary purpose of the club.

Initial contact has been made with the University of Lancaster and Staffordshire University, both in England, as prospective hosts for this trip. The agenda for the week will include workshops on a Career Plan Book and Portfolio, group sharing between students of both countries on accessibility issues, such as transportation, accommodations, and disclosure.

C.E.S. also plans not only a

Volunteer Day in which members will give their services to a local organization providing assistance on an accessibility project, but also the development of a student panel to educate the college personnel, and also a sightseeing tour of London.

The host university has been asked to provide meals and room accommodations, but travel and other costs must be paid for by the C.E.S. members. A variety of fund-raising events will take place

on campus to try to reduce part of the expenses. Raffles will be held periodically in the G-Lobby in the Hammond Building for this purpose.

Due to the limited number of students that can go, no more space is available for this trip.

If you would like more information on the C.E.S., call Christy Potter at Disability Services at ext. 4029.

Emergency class cancellation data

The following Radio / TV stations will announce the class cancellations during weather emergencies for the 1996-1997 academic year:

WEIM (1280/AM) Fitchburg
WXLO (104.5 FM) Worcester
WFGL (960/AM) Fitchburg
WINQ (980/AM) Winchendon
WSRS/WTAG (96.1/FM; 580/AM) Worc.
WBZ (1030/AM) Boston
WGAW (1340/AM) Gardner
WCAT (99.9/FM) Orange
WXPL (91.3/FM) FSC Campus Radio
WBZ Storm Center (News 4)
WCWB-TV (Channel 5)
WRKO (7 News)

Cancellations:

When the cancellation is announced in the early morning (from 6:00 a.m. on), ALL college programs (day, evening, graduate and continuing education) are canceled. Please listen for a Fitchburg State College cancellation, do not confuse this with Fitchburg Public Schools. When classes are canceled for college students during the day, classes are also canceled for all on-campus evening programs during that same day. Evening courses taught at sites off-campus will be canceled when the specific facility where the classes are taught is closed.

Delayed College Openings:

In the event of a delayed opening, the academic day will begin on the hour following the announced delay. For example, a one-hour delay would cancel the 8:30 am class and the academic day would begin with the 9:30 am class.

The possibility exists that if McKay Campus Elementary School is canceled, the rest of the college may remain open.

Should a storm develop during the day, appropriate cancellations will be announced on all of the above radio/TV stations.

We strongly urge that you listen to the radio cancellations/announcements. If you must call the College, please use the following telephone numbers: (508-665-4003, 665-4004, and 665-3580). If you are a resident student, you must call 508-665-3006 to obtain parking information regarding snow removal. The number 508-665-3580 may be used to check on faculty absences when the College is in session.

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The Strobe considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. All articles must be typed or legibly hand-written and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Strobe article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The Strobe is the student newspaper of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to *The Strobe* becomes the property of *The Strobe*.

Fall 1996—Final Exam Schedule

Class Meeting Times

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Class Time	Exam Block	Class Time	Exam Block	Class Time	Exam Block
8:30	A	8:30	C	8:30	E
9:30	B	9:30	D	9:30	F
10:30	G	10:30	I	10:30	K
11:30	H	11:30	J	11:30	L
12:30	M	12:30	O	12:30	Q
1:30	N	1:30	P	1:30	R
2:30	S	2:30	U	2:30	X
3:30	T	3:30	W	3:30	Y

Directions

From the class times chart identify the exam block letter that corresponds with the first class meeting-time of the week:

EX 1: English Comp. I T 9:30-11:20 T314, F 10:30 A207 = D

EX 2: Comm. Law W 2:30, F 2:30-4:20 T206 = X

Locate that letter in the exam block schedule:

EX 1: D = Dec. 12 8:30-10:20 A207

EX 2: X = Dec. 11 2:30-4:20 T206

The exam will be given on that date and at that time in the regularly scheduled classroom. If your class time is not on the schedule (there are only 14 non-scheduled classes) your instructor will arrange an exam block with the class. Multi-section courses with a common meeting time may have the exam at that time. Check with your professor.

Extremely bad weather may cause exams to be delayed or cancelled. Listen early for a radio announcement. If delayed, we will use the delay times. If one day is cancelled, those exams will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17. If a second day is cancelled, those exams will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Exam Block Schedule

Exam Times	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Storm Delay Times
8:30-10:20	E	B	F	C	A	D			10:00-11:50
10:30-12:20	G	J	H	K	I	L			11:50-1:40
12:30-2:20	O	R	P	M	Q	N			1:40-3:30
2:30-4:20	U	T	Y	S	X	W			3:30-5:30

College Building Symbol Key

CS	Condie Science	MK	McKay Campus School
A	Conlon Arts	G	Parkinson Gym
CM	Conlon Music Wing	P	Percival Hall
E	Edgely	PAUD	Percival Hall Auditorium
HLM	Hammond Lab/Math	SLH	Science Lecture Hall
HLE	Hammond Lab/English	T	Thompson Hall
Holmes I & II—Lower Level		Wes	Weston Auditorium

FSC friends remember Dinelle Finch one year after her death

by Kathy Geoghegan
Associate Editor

[Editor's note: The Strobe would like to apologize to those who submitted the song by Mariah Carrey as a tribute to Dinelle Finch. We can not re-publish it because of copyright restrictions.]



Happy days at FSC: Dinelle Finch (left) and Yvonne Steadman (right) laugh it up one sunny day.

my sista
by the sistas

sleep my sista
dream of good things
fly up above
with your golden wings

your smile will be missed
you were too sweet to go
and the reason why
we'll never know

you had the warmest heart
you had the brightest dream
we never thought you'd leave us
at least though it seemed

you laughed with us
you cried with us
but now it's just a memory
we try to hold onto you
but it's very hard to see
we could never forget you
because you're attached to our hearts
so we know in our minds
that we will never be apart
we miss you so much
we could cry all day long
but we have to keep going
we have to be strong

we pray and we pray
and all we can say

is that "we love you dinelle"
and we wish that you stayed

marie tanya
yvonne kathy laura
kim sistas lee
dinelle sandy

"We miss you so much..."



Dinelle Finch: FSC photo from November 16, 1996



Dinelle and friends: striking a semi-formal pose, Dinelle Finch and her friends enjoy a night out.

One year ago, the sudden death of Dinelle Finch stunned the FSC community. A well known and accomplished young woman,

Dinelle had many good friends and was very active on campus. May her spirit live on in our hearts and memories.

Dinelle Lavonne Finch
October 30, 1973 - December 7, 1995

How I survived Thanksgiving at home in Maine

by Sonja Randall
Strobe Writer

Vacationland. That's Maine to most residents of Massachusetts. As a four year resident of Massachusetts, I find it a little awkward to go home to Maine



for the holidays. The holidays stress everyone, but it does not help to go home for Thanksgiving when you do not even like turkey.

Gathering with the family never bores. This year would be no different. This year I informed my family that I will take a semester off from college to go to Hawaii.

I arrive at the doorstep of my Godparents' house in a tiny little country town, listening to the sound of silence. I know it will be the last sound of peace for a long while.

Everyone is always happy to see you when you walk through the door, even with dirty laundry strung over your back. Our blue-tick hound, Sunny, races down the stairs to greet me. Her

long and thin tail whips my legs so hard that I have to move away.

My godparents make their way down the stairs. "It's so good to have you home..." says Jane, "I hope you're ready to get up early tomorrow morning... I told Carol we'd bring the potatoes to dinner... we're going to eat at noon..." I am home for five minutes and visions of getting back to school are dancing in my head.

Breaking the news to Conrad and Jane was the plan I had devised during my three hour drive home. However, my little brother Ryan negated any chance of that.

I wanted to tell them of my trip when they were in a good mood, but Ryan, a senior in high school, didn't return home for dinner without calling. Conrad and Jane were anything but happy.

Ry finally stumbles through the door. I am consulted as mediator--against my will: "Sonja, tell your brother why it's important to call if you're going to be late," says Conrad.

O.K. Fine. I can wait until morning to break the Aloha news. We will peel potatoes. Peeling potatoes is a good bonding experience anyway. For the first time in months I find myself in bed at 9:30pm.

Suddenly I awaken in the middle of the night (has to be night, still dark in here). I hear someone in the hallway walking toward my room. The door to my siesta-spot slowly creeps open. My God, someone has murdered the rest of my family and now they are coming to get me!

"We've got to get moving on

those potatoes..." says Jane. "If we're late the whole dinner will get thrown off time... and Conrad won't be able to eat because he has to milk at 3:00 p.m..."

"O.K., O.K.," I say. "I'm up."

Discussing my trip seems inappropriate during the peeling of potatoes. Sharp vegetable peelers have been known to cause a lot of damage.

At 10:00 p.m. the four of us pile into the car. Ryan, being fully aware of my Hawaii situation, decides to have some fun with me by complaining about how cold it is getting and how he would like to visit a tropical island.

"What are you taking for classes next semester?" Ryan asks me. Hoping that no one sitting in the front heard his comment, I give Ryan the death stare and attempt to change the subject by asking about the news or gossip around town.

Was it possible that I had been away that long? Delmer the town auto mechanic has prostate cancer. The woman down the street had a stroke and crawled to her neighbor's house followed by her 25 or so cats, who were collectively missing a number of eyes, ears, and other parts.

I deserved it. I fell right into that one. For the rest of the drive, I sit silently trying to convince myself that the pain will end soon.

We join sixteen members of the family at Aunt Carol's house. It immediately feels like any other Thanksgiving. The women have knocked themselves out in the kitchen trying to prepare dinner, while the men have gathered in the living room

to discuss deer stories.

"Butch Howard claims he got the biggest buck this year," said Conrad. "Some of the boys in town said his son shot it for him after he had already missed twice." The other men's reaction in the room is that of astonishment.

"I heard he and his son were driving deer a few weeks ago and a warden caught them," said Wayne as excited as a school boy as though he were exposing the biggest secret of the century. "Heard they both got off pretty easy."

Ryan and my cousin Scott offer an alternate subject of conversation. As both are EMT's they were locked in a discussion of the accident they had been to the night before. "That guy will definitely lose his arm," said Scott. "He's lucky to have any limbs at all left." Not exactly an appetizing discussion, but more interesting than deer stories.

I thought it might be a good idea to discuss Hawaii during dinner for many reasons. First, if Conrad and Jane decide to seriously hurt me, there would be a number of witnesses in my defense. Second, any heart attacks or spontaneous choking could be taken care of quite quickly by Ryan and Scott. Third, the spiked eggnog that Jane's sister Nona made will surely effect everyone positively.

With dinner on the table, we call everyone into the kitchen to eat. I feel rather bad when I look at everyone's face. They are so happy, so non-suspecting. I offered to fill everyone's eggnog.

We dig into the food. My family doesn't gather often due

to everyone's work schedules. I hadn't seen most of my family since August. It was expected that I would have to field a number of questions from interested family members. "How is school going this semester?" "Did you write anything juicy for the paper?" Then the dreaded question. "What are your classes next semester?"

Normally I answer questions immediately, but I hadn't prepared for this particular question. I paused.

"What was that Linda, I couldn't hear you," I stall.

"Have you picked your classes for next semester yet?" Linda repeats.



The door is wide open, inviting me to tell them all of my news. I must be brave.

"Yes, but I can't remember exactly what they are," I say. "I've been so busy preparing for finals."

With the fear that the word "liar" would spell itself out on my forehead, I give up my per-

See Maine, page 5

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Position Available

DGCE has a trustfund position available to start during the SP 97 (Starts Jan. 22) semester. The student should have the following qualifications; computer familiarity, typing, and the ability to work in a fast paced environment. Office experience preferred. If interested please contact Linda Winslow at ext. 3209

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Everything you wanted to know about politics, but were afraid to ask

by Mary Ann Bennett-Newbold
Strobo Writer

Some well-known facts: in 1996 young men and women, especially college students, are turned off by the whole system of politics and rarely, if ever, bother to vote. A good political discussion just never happens these days.

Right? WRONG!

Anyone who believes these "facts" has never been in CM 256 on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, during the Media and Politics class taught by Dr. George Bohrer and Dean Shirley Wagner.

Dean Wagner and Dr. Bohrer combine their efforts to teach this special topic during the Presidential elections. Every election season they collect more campaign literature and videos to use as teaching tools. Dean Wagner's background includes Political Science, and Dr. Bohrer specializes in Communications. Between them, they cover many aspects of the political effects of the media.

Even though the election is over, the class still steams ahead. On a recent Thursday afternoon, the students and professors were greeted with a message chalked on the blackboard: "Welcome to Media and Politics, the Land of the Happy People!"

The noisy people, too, according to the folks in the class down the hall. They're probably just jealous because we're having so much fun.

Where else but in Media/Pol would you see a conservative Republican and a liberal Democrat feminist sharing a terminal so they can find the site where Pat Buchanan is blasted?

"It's the most dynamic class I've ever been in at FSC!" said one classmate. "I love it, even though I've already written 45 pages of papers, and I still have my last journal, an oral report, and the final paper!"

There is more to the course than writing papers. Students also read books, share political

cartoons, and watch videos. Videos? Yes, videos of campaign speeches, debates, national conventions, convention videos, famous political ads, and even one film with a strong political subtext.

And let us never forget the times that Dean Wagner brought pies and cookies to class after her Thursday meetings! We would like the class even without Key Lime and Pecan pies and Chocolate Chip cookies, but everything is always much more fun with food.

When the class viewed Dole's 1996 convention video, the reaction was "They didn't use any fancy equipment to produce that! I could have done that when I was a freshman!"

Dr. Bohrer remarked that it was only in a class of mostly Communications/Media students you would get that particular criticism.

Gerard Marzilli, a Comm/Media student, thinks this is a "wonderful class because it makes the students better voters by explaining to them the processes they might otherwise be ignorant of."

One member of the class has decided to become an American citizen after learning about government in Media/Pol. He

wished he'd done it earlier so that he could vote in the Presidential election.

Even students who are not registered for the course come to the class. Jessica Kennedy, a Senior Comm/Media student, said that she did not have enough time to do the assignments for the course in addition to all the production courses she's taking, but she wants to come to the classes anyway. "Honestly, I hate politics, but I knew this was an opportunity to catch up on how they are affecting our lives. Not to mention; it was an opportunity to get the inside track on how media and the political machine use each other to gain power, sometimes at our expense."

The course is listed under both Political Science and Communications, and the hotly-debated question is 'What's the name? Is it Media and Politics? Or Politics and Media?'

The answer is 'It depends on whom you ask.' The Communications students and Dr. Bohrer call it Media/Politics. The Poli/Sci students and Dean Wagner call it Politics/Media.

Mary Ann Bennett-Newbold will be returning next semester as a Strobo copy editor.

Thanksgiving in Maine continued from page 4

fect opportunity. It is probably for the best anyhow. Only two minutes later Ryan and Scott get paged on their radios.

"To all available Sacopee Rescue members there is a 10-55 two miles up on Hessian Hill Rd," we heard the dispatcher say. "Units 45 and 20 are you available to attend?" Ryan and Scott get up from the table.

"10-04, we're en route," Ryan replies into his radio.

"Rescue 1 will wait for you at the rescue barn, over," says the dispatcher.

"10-04."

For my family, this is expected. Ryan and Scott are in heaven. They don't want to be with the folks eating dinner anyway. They peel out of the driveway in Scott's truck, which is lit up like a Christmas tree with red strobe lights.

I think of Christmas, that is

probably a better time to break the news to Conrad and Jane about Hawaii. Everyone is so much more understanding at Christmas. Better yet, maybe I'll just send them a postcard from Waikiki beach.

Sonja Randall will be taking next semester off, but has promised to send contributions to The Strobo from Hawaii.

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Burn in smoking hell

by Keith Fredericks
Opinion Editor

The "Great American Smoke Out" again reminded many people of the dangers of smoking. This year's "smoke out" seemed to be less of an insightful day than a societal joke. It seems that everyone knows what smoking is, what it does, and why. The public is educated to death about smoking, but education does not touch the untouchable problem. Smokers simply are addicts with weak character. Some

"Our generation of smokers are not ignorant, they're weak."

things just can't be fixed with education.

Millions of dollars are being wasted on cigarette addicts every year. Most tobacco sucking enthusiasts are doomed to their weak minded activity for the rest of their worthless lives.

It's not worth it to throw money at these foul breathed, yellow toothed junkies. Why is time wasted on a group of irrational native characters who explain their addiction with "we're all gonna die someday?" Let them die in tobacco hell.

I pity the middle aged and elderly smokers though. They developed their habits in an age of misinformation. Today's smokers are not misinformed. They simply don't have the will power or intelligence to deter them.

selves from their addiction or the behavior that produced their addiction.

Our generation of smokers are not ignorant, they're weak. A simple study correlating intelligence to cigarette addiction would illustrate this fact. Most people don't need a study to see the consistent lack of social and cognitive skills of most smokers. Of course there are many intelligent smokers, but the general population of today's smokers are buffoons.

Cigarette addiction has not decreased over the years; it is just as much a problem as it has ever been. All the education in the world isn't going to get through to the weak minded. Today it seems the only effective way to deter smoking is to take privileges away from smokers. Soon smokers won't be able to eat at restaurants, fly on planes, or light up anywhere but in the great outdoors.

Taking away smoker's rights is a step in the right direction. They asked for it. It's justified and constitutional to take away the rights of someone who is harming others. Prison is a perfect example of this. Smokers continue to hurt all those around them as well as being the carriers of a habit that will kill them and generations to come.

I propose Operation Clean Sweep. We should gather all smokers in one place, and then drop a bomb on them, effectively eliminating an epidemic that is much larger than the rights of a few weak minded individuals. There all gonna die some day anyhow.

Keith Fredericks will return next semester as the Opinion Editor

w/ this coupon

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Rapists roam free in the military

by Kimberly White
Copy Editor

I come from a military family, and I can't help but feel appalled at the treatment that women are receiving. Women are coming from every branch of the military to strike back at their assailants and the government.

There have been records

"Some men threaten the women by saying that they will kill them if they report it."

and reports of women being raped since World War II. These reports have been virtually ignored. Accused men are rarely punished for their actions. This injustice can be explained in two ways. First, soldiers obviously do not want to rat out their fellow soldiers.

Second, some superior officers are the rapists. One military man, who wanted his identity concealed, said, "They're always bragging about rape and think it's cool if she was sore and in pain."

Saying this epidemic is sickening to me would be an understatement. The reason that women join the armed services is the same reason as men. Women are patriotic, and take pride in fighting for their country. They should not have to fight off the men who wear the same uniform as they do.

Jessica Bleckley broke her silence and started making allegations against the Army. Since that information became available, literally thousands of women have also come forward. These women are survivors of sexual harassment, rape, and even gang rape. Military men obviously have access to deadly weapons and even use these weapons to intimidate their victims. Some men threaten the women by saying that they will kill them if they report it.

The military has done

something about helping these women. They have opened more than sixty- two counseling centers across the country to help military women try to cope with their tragedies.

It is unfortunate that they even need these counseling

"They should not have to fight off the men who wear the same uniform as they do."

centers. The government needs to acknowledge this problem and bring justice to all rapists regardless of rank and make the military a safe place for all who wish to serve.

We can only hope that someday soon women will receive the respect they deserve. I will continue to write about the grave injustice done to women, in hopes of bringing about change. May all women survive their own battles to see this occur.

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Getting loaded at FSC

by Karen Sjostrom, Jodi Rolson, Jennifer Walsh

Correspondents

The last few weeks of November are usually thought of as a time to spend a relaxing holiday with family and friends. The holidays are anything but relaxing and stress free for college students at Fitchburg State College.

It is the end of the semester, a time when FSC students find themselves overwhelmed with end of the year course work.

Professors seem to wait until the last few weeks of school to assign major course work. Many professors do not think to spread assignments evenly throughout the semester. Earlier weeks in the semester often go by without any assignments at all. Then suddenly

at the end of November students get swamped with work.

Many professors are not compassionate to the fact that students have more than one class in which assignments are

"Professors seem to wait until the last few weeks of school to assign major, important course work."

due at this time. They are not flexible with deadlines.

Professors that teach Gen. Ed. Classes are often unreasonable. They insist that their students devote extensive precious time to subjects that are irrelevant.

The professors at FSC need to realize the unreasonable strain they are putting on the student body by overwhelming students with deadlines and assignments during the last few weeks of the semester. If a paper is important in the curriculum, it should not be due at the same time a final is assigned. Instead, a paper that is due earlier in the semester would be easier on the student. Another method of lightening up the overwhelming load would be to assign bits and pieces of important materials throughout the semester, instead of all at once.

The end of the semester does not have to be a hectic harried time. If professors would only listen to the demands of the students, instead of ignoring them, both parties would benefit.

Parking crisis continues

by Kimberly White
Copy Editor

Pressure is rising every day at FSC in the battle for parking spaces. Commuter students are forced to leave their homes a lot earlier in the morning to be able to park their cars. Even then, when students arrive at the school, there are no spaces available.

This occurs for several reasons. (1) There are too few spaces for the number of students who attend the college. (2) Students who live on campus, take up a great deal of spaces. (3) During the winter, the snow is plowed into some valuable parking spaces.

Take into consideration the amount of money the students give to achieve a higher education. This college has a mandatory "college fee." This "fee" out weighs tuition by over \$300 per semester. The

reasoning behind this fee is that students have access to things like the library and computer labs, which rarely work anyway.

There are approximately 3,000 students who attend the college. All of these students pay the college fee, which total 2,880,000 per semester. For the school year, the figure is a starting \$5,760.00. This money should be used for building new parking lots. There would still be ample money left over to pay professors and keep all of the facilities functioning.

There are some alternative solutions to simply building more lots. Students who live on campus, who are Freshmen and Sophomores, should not be permitted to have cars at school. This may seem cruel, but FSC has shuttles on campus. These shuttles go to the malls, Walmart, John Fitch

Highway, and other points of interest.

Upperclassmen should have their own parking lots. This can be monitored by adding another color coded sticker. After all, Seniors and Juniors have put in more time and money to the college than the underclassmen. There should be benefits and privileges that exceed those of underclassmen.

The should also take mercy on the students' wallets. They could do this by

It is not the students' faults there is not ample parking. After receiving a ticket, you can hear students cursing the whole administration. If there were enough parking spaces, students wouldn't have to park in the wrong areas as a last resort to get to class on time. Campus police should not give tickets for parking in the wrong areas, until this problem is rectified.

Ultimate holiday diet

by Kathy Geoghegan
Associate Editor

Do to stress and constant surrounding by food, the average American gains nine to 12 pounds between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day. This diet is designed to help you cope with the stress that builds up over the holiday season.

RULES FOR THE HOLIDAY DIET

- 1) If you eat something and no one sees you eat it, it has no calories.
- 2) If you drink a diet soda with a candy bar, the calories in the candy bar are canceled out by the diet soda.
- 3) When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if they eat more than you do.
- 4) Food used for medicinal purposes NEVER count. Examples of this are hot chocolate, brandy, toast, and Sara Lee Cheesecake.
- 5) If you fatten up everyone else around you, then you look thinner.
- 6) Movie related foods do not have additional calories because they are part of the entire entertainment package and not part of one's personal fuel. Examples are Milk Duds, buttered popcorn, Junior Mints, Red Hots and Tootsie Rolls.
- 7) Cookie pieces contain no calories. The process of breaking causes caloric burn.
- 8) Things licked off knives and spoons have no calories if licked off during the food preparation process. Examples of this are peanut butter licked off the knife while making a sandwich, or a spoon after mixing brownies.
- 9) Foods that have the same color have the same number of calories. Examples are spinach and pistachio ice cream, mushrooms and white chocolate.

Please try this diet. It really works. I won't tell you it will help you lose weight, but it will reduce the stress the holidays can have on you and put a smile on your face.

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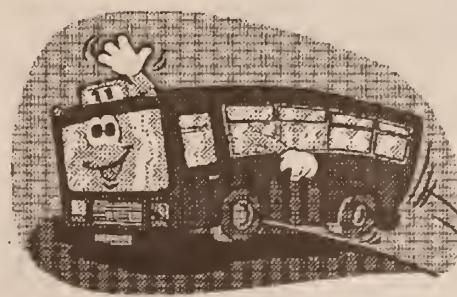
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FSC men head to regional billiard tournament

by Presley Reese
Strobe Writer

Jake Shattuck, Jamie Schatzl, and Kevin Flynn were the top three finishers at last month's 8-ball tournament held in the FSC Game Room. Their victories assure them spots in the Regional Tournament held February at the University of New Hampshire.

The winners of the Regional will compete for the National title in Texas.

The Women's 8-ball tournament will take place at the beginning of next semester. This in-house tournament is open to all FSC females.

Complete tournament

listings for next semester will be posted in the Game Room after the winter break. Planned events include a 9-ball tournament, as well as Air Hockey and arcade superiority competitions on Tekken 2, Soul Edge and others.

The Game Room is located off of the Hammond G-Lobby, down the corridor next to the Ellis White Lecture Hall. It is open 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on week days and noon-4:00 p.m. on weekends. Billiards, Foosball, and Ping-Pong tables are free to FSC students, but everyone using the equipment MUST HAVE A VALID I.D.!!!

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Strobe Special!!!! Winter Film Reviews by new A&E Editor Sarah Adams

by Sarah Adams
A&E Editor

Who killed Santa? Jingle All the Way *

This is supposed to be a movie for kids, right? What's wrong with these movie people, anyway? Who directed this thing? (I should know that, right?) We have Schwarzenegger and Sinbad drinking beer and hard liquor, beating on one another, pounding Santa and his elves, kicking reindeer, and attacking children.

Then there are a million mall Santas involved in an underground toy selling scam, who get in a giant bar-type brawl with the police. Yeah, we know it's not the real Santa (after all, he's way too busy up at the North Pole to be sitting in a mall all day), but what about those poor kids? Who is this movie aimed at, anyway? It's not like anyone over the age of seven would actually want to see this movie. (So why was I there? Good question.)

Why would any rational person want to destroy the spirit of the season for so many young people? I heard at least two little kids ask their parents, "Mom, is that the real Santa?" What about those kids who were just too stunned to ask?

With stunted creativity, stressed, confused, and disappointed, these kids will end up in therapy years from now, and why? Because this bozo decided to dis' Santa. I'm not usually anal about this sort of thing, but this is ridiculous. If you don't believe me, go see it for yourself.

First Contact makes the seminal scene Star Trek: First Contact ***

If you're a *Star Trek* fan, and I think I'm talking mainly to the men out there, you'll enjoy this. (No offense meant to the ladies, but having been literally the only female in a room full of cheering, chuckling Trekkie men this weekend, I think you are in the minority).

I've pushed my male friends through quite a few 'girl movies' in my day and I swear it is literally torture to them (I'm not saying men have no taste, oh, no). This movie is not nearly as bad as that *Ace Ventura* crap they usually make us watch.

Star Trek movies, in my opinion, are really only glorified TV shows, but this was never so horrible. There was mystery, suspense, intrigue, but no romance whatsoever. It was just as cold and unemotional as your typical sci-fi movie.

The Enterprise crew are used to being trapped in a little black box, subject to commercial breaks and low volume to keep the neighbors happy. I say hang on, wait for the video to come out. Maybe I place too much importance in the emotional content which is so sadly lacking here. When I go to the movies, I pay for the love scenes, damn it, but that's just my opinion. You'll probably love it.

Bugs Bunny sucks more than carrots Space Jam **

Having always been a big Loony Toons fan, I was really

looking forward to this movie. I was disappointed.

The animation quality is low, the voices just don't measure up to the originals, and the humor isn't the same. Yeah, sure, the trademark quirks are there, but [whining]: it just isn't the same.

Michael Jordan lends a hand to save the Loony Toons from enslavement by aliens on a place called Moron Mountain. That's what it's all about. A feisty, independent, sexy little female rabbit is added to the original loony toon cast... Did you ever notice that the loony toons are all men? Every one of them, except for Granny. What kind of representation is that? Was this new rabbit added in hopes that we'd all (women, I mean) forget to be mad about being excluded all those years? And to think it was my favorite cartoon. At least they're trying to mend their ways, that has to count for something... Anyway, back to the movie.

It is all real light-hearted. I suppose I didn't expect to find depth. Then there's that all-star cast, including Patrick Ewing, Charles Barkley and Muggsy Bogues, which I couldn't appreciate because I'm not a basketball fan. It wasn't a movie to cheer about and rarely any laughs were heard, even in a packed theater. Yeah, I guess we were all a little disappointed.

DiCapprio shines as Romeo Romeo & Juliette ****

I'm so excited about this movie. This is absolutely the

type of movie a person could watch again and again. I've seen it three times already. There's no doubt about it, you have to see this... being a lover of Love, I hope I'm not biased too much in any way.

Even if you hate this movie, or Shakespeare, you'll appreciate the phenomenal job that director Baz Luhrman did with the play. Shakespeare himself would get a kick out of it. It almost seems to make more sense, being set in the 1990's (just don't let Kenneth Branagh get a hold of it— see *Hamlet*, below).

Leonardo DiCapprio (Romeo) has this wild control over his emotions— love, pain, sadness, shock, grief. All of it is just so... REAL, but (because I have to criticize) his lines are stiff-sounding at times. He didn't speak the language as perfectly as Harold Perrineau (Mercutio), but he is fabulous and by far the best actor in the movie. He deserves some kind of award (something, anything!).

Claire Danes as Juliet is so sweet and I loved her, but... as with DiCapprio, her lines are sometimes too choppy.

I overheard the guy sitting next to me say, "It's sad. Without this movie so many people today wouldn't know about Romeo and Juliet. It's kind of like *Space Jam*. If it wasn't for that movie, little kids today wouldn't know about *Pepe le Pew*." (Yes, someone really said that... and Mom wonders why I stay single).

This movie is so alive! The

characters are so real, you'll swear you know someone just like that. If you've ever struggled through the play and loved it, or hated it or if you are of the opinion that a good movie can not be made from a script that was written 400 years ago, before cars and electricity and flushing toilets, I urge you to see this movie. You will love it and you will never think of Shakespeare the same way again.

ZZZZzzzz....Branagh's Hamlet bores Hamlet **1/2

Four hours and 25 minutes makes a very long movie— HA, long is an understatement!

Yeah, you know, they haven't done much for old Hamlet here. An attempt was made at modernization this film (or so I hear) by placing the classic in the late 1930's. Honestly, I couldn't tell the difference. The 30's might as well have been four centuries ago... My point— this isn't modern.

Granted not much can be done with a classic. You don't want to change it too much or it ceases to be a classic, you know? Look at what Baz Luhrman did with *Romeo and Juliet*. That was fabulous. So creative and great it brought me to tears (yes, literally). Sure, I thought I might cry several times throughout Hamlet, but only because I had a cramp in my butt from sitting too long. But seriously, folks... It wasn't that bad.

If viewers are English majors or Shakespeare buffs they will appreciate the depth and introspection these actors and actresses give to the printed word, especially those who play the roles of the main characters. Kenneth Branagh makes a splendid madman.

There are several famous guest stars thrown in who only detract from the movie. The audience says, "Hey, cool, it's Robin Williams" and completely forgets the character he's supposed to be playing.

If you ended up paying money to see this movie, don't leave before the intermission - the action picks up after that. Really, it does. I love Shakespeare, but it was tough for me to sit through this movie. I can say with certainty that I will never do it again. It's an important educational experience, sure, but don't be looking for a good time in the theater — you may be disappointed.

I'd recommend large doses of caffeine, a bag lunch, and a padded seat cushion (it can get kind of rough on the butt after four hours...).

Hamlet open in theaters on January 24, 1997

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Care and Share and make a difference

by Kristin Kinville
Strobe Writer

Around the holiday season it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Yule Tide. But at this time we should all take a moment to remember those in need, or those who could use a helping hand.

FSC's, Office of Student Affairs and the Athletic Department are sponsoring the annual "Care and Share" fund raising and food drive for holiday baskets and Christmas gifts which are given to families who could use a helping hand.

Twenty families are nominated by teachers of the McKay Campus School and their names are turned into the Student Affairs office by November. During November and December organizations and individuals on campus help with the different drives and make the holiday baskets possible.

The Student Affairs office places many food drive boxes for non-perishable goods all over the campus. This donated food is used to fill the baskets to make a full holiday meal with all the trimmings. Any missing items are purchased with monetary donations and funding.

Many local businesses donate items to the cause, such as Whalom Park who gave season passes. Pizza Hut and Papa Gino's donated pizza, Searstown Mall Association gave gift certificates, Demoulas Market Basket donated food certificates, and the Old Mill Restaurant gave certificates for complete lunch meals. These baskets are put together by volunteers on December 20th, then the baskets are delivered on the 23rd.

Also sponsored is the name tree. A Christmas tree is placed outside the Student Affairs

Office with the name, age and sex of every child of the nominated families. Willing participants can choose a name of a child, purchase a Christmas gift for the child, then turn it into the Student Affairs office by December 19th. The gifts are given along with the Holiday baskets.

The Athletic Office sponsors a Mitten and Hat Drive. When a person donates a pair of mittens, a hat, or both, that person receives a replica mitten or hat, with their name on it, hung on the "Mitten Tree," which is placed just outside the shipping and receiving office in the Anthony building. All the children of the selected families receive a pair of mittens or a hat, or both if enough donations have been made.

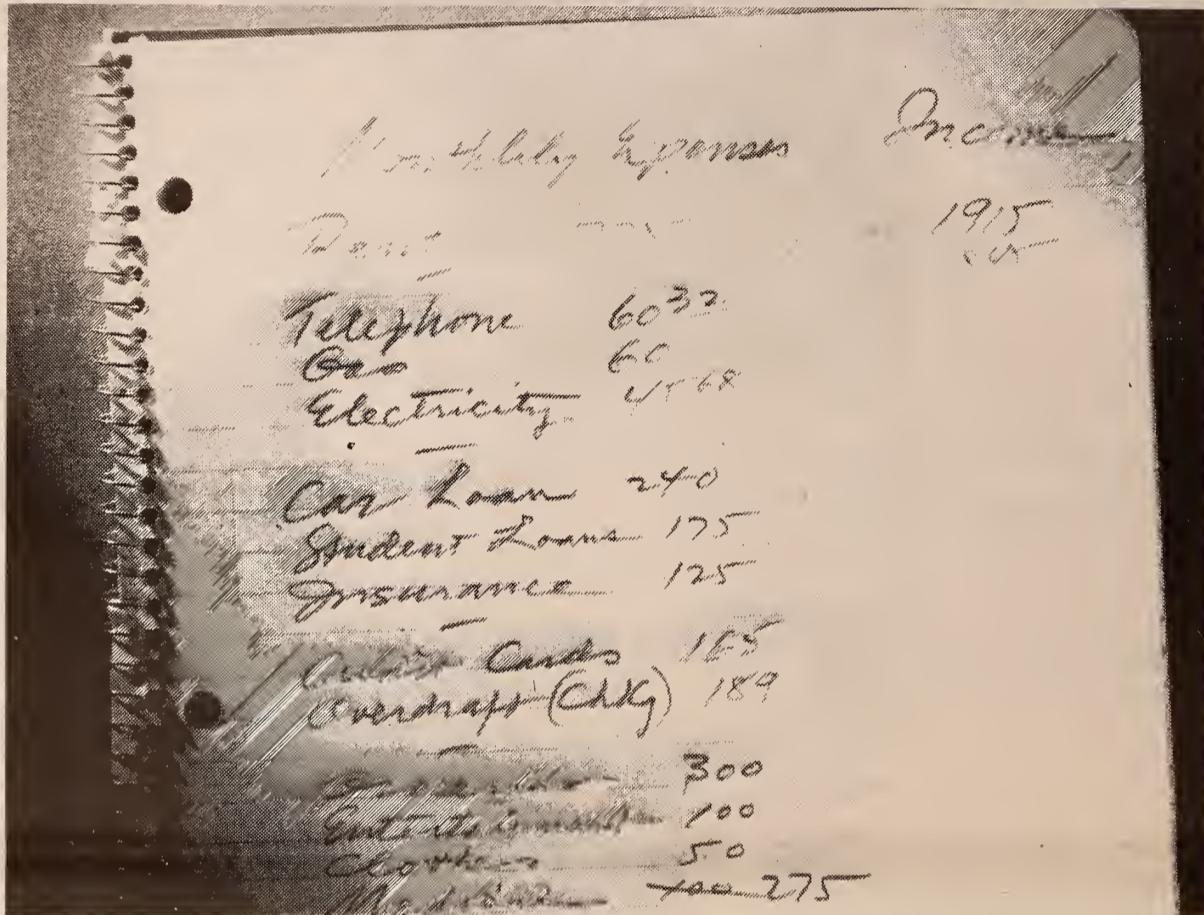
If you would like to get more information, volunteer, or make a contribution, stop by either the Student Affairs Office located on

the 2nd floor of the Sanders Administration building or the Athletics Office in the Anthony Building.



Happy Holidays

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Sports leftovers



Sports
Editor
Michael
Poirier

Sports Feature

After what seemed like an eternity the Red Sox finally hired a new manager, ex-Braves third base coach Jimy Williams. Williams has had some prior managerial experience with Toronto, but has yet to feel the intense pressure of dealing with not only the Boston press, but the fans as well.

If the Sox get off to the kind of start they had last year (6-19), look for Williams to be the sacrificial scapegoat and for Dan Duquette to start making excuses. Maybe Duquette can pull an M.L. Carr and be the General Manager and the Field Manager. I'm sure Mo Vaughn wouldn't have a problem with that (can you smell that? It's sarcasm).

The Chicago White Sox signed Albert Belle to what amounts to \$11 million dollars a year over the next five years. Wasn't it White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf who talked about salaries being too high and initiating a salary cap? I guess that only applies to other teams who want to sign high priced free agents, not to Reinsdorf's Pale Hose.

Reinsdorf's suddenly free spending ways got him in trouble as the rest of the owners, feeling betrayed, ratified a collective bargaining agreement with the players union they had

rejected only three weeks ago. Some soon to be free agents (Tim Nahering, Alex Fernandez and Moises Alou) will probably not be getting the kind of money that Belle is getting, but look for them to cash in somehow.

Also don't forget about interleague play to stir up some interest next year as well. Some interesting matchups are the Atlanta Braves and the Boston Red Sox. The Braves haven't been in Boston since 1952 and haven't been at Fenway since the 1914 World Series. The Mets and the Yankees should also be interesting. Look for Steinbrenner to relieve Joe Torre of his managerial duties for those two games and replace him with the ghost of Casey Stengel just to insure victory. How about the White Sox at Wrigley? Maybe Belle can piss off the Bleacher Bums too. I'm betting on it.

Speaking of betting. Is anyone surprised that BC coach Dan Henning wasn't rehired for next year? I'm not. The only difference between BC players and other college players is that they got caught. This kind of thing has been going on now for years and those guilty players just happened to get careless. The players who should be real worried are those who bet against their own team. I don't think they'll be getting any Alumni passes to any games next season much less a college education.

After watching the Patriots defeat the Colts (27-13) and destroy the Chargers (45-7), they should crush the Jets this weekend, then go deep into the heart of Texas and beat the suddenly recharged Cowboys. Even if the Pats don't make it far into the

playoffs, my hope is that they can take Dallas out of playoff contention.

Do you know what is on M.L. Carr's X-mas list this year? I do. A healthy team. Pervis Ellison broke a big toe moving furniture and will be out for a few weeks. Hey Pervis, you're making big money. Can't you afford movers? I guess not.

Does anyone care about the Bruins this season? I don't. They're playing just around .500 early in the season and haven't really impressed anyone. Adam Oates is definitely the heart and soul of the team, but without Cam Neely he has no one to set up anymore. Also look for Ray Bourque to play maybe two more seasons after this one and probably retire. He deserved better than just a couple of trips to the finals. He deserved to have his name inscribed on the Stanley Cup.



Fitchburg's fielder of dreams

by Michael J. Poirier
Sports Editor

Located on route 2A in west Fitchburg, between the British American Club and the West Fitchburg Pizzeria, is a monument dedicated to Patrick Joseph Moran, a Fitchburg native who went on to become both a player and manager in the National League for over twenty four years.

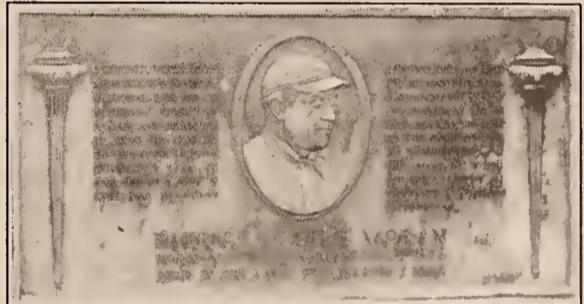
Moran was born on February 7, 1876 in Fitchburg and was mostly a backup catcher for the Boston Beaneaters (Braves), Chicago Cubs and Philadelphia Phillies during his fourteen-year career. In his third season with the Beaneaters (1903) Moran registered the highest homerun percentage in the National League with seven homeruns in 389 at-bats.

After the 1905 season Moran then went on to play for the Chicago Cubs, who possessed future hall of famers Joe Tinker, Johnny Evers, Frank Chance (of Tinker to Evers to Chance fame), and Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown. Between 1906 and 1908 the Cubs won three pennants and two World Series. Moran played in two of those World Series going hitless in three at-bats as a pinch-hitter.

Following the 1909 season in which Moran only hit .220 with one homerun and twenty-three RBI for the Cubs he then moved onto the Philadelphia Phillies, where he served as both a backup catcher and pitching coach, guiding rookies Grover Cleveland Alexander (373 wins) and Eppa Rixey (266 wins) onto hall of fame careers. Moran didn't play much throughout his last few seasons with Philadelphia, as he was being groomed to replace player-manager Red Doooin after the 1914 season.

In 1915 Moran led the Phillies to their first pennant, but lost the World Series to the Boston Red Sox in five games. In his four seasons with Philadelphia, Moran guided the Phillies to one pennant and two second place finishes, losing only the 1916 pennant to the Brooklyn Dodgers by 2 1/2 games.

Upon being released from a contractual agreement by the New York Giants, Moran was then hired as the manager for



the Cincinnati Reds and led them to their first pennant in 1919. The Reds were considered the underdogs, but defeated the AL champion Chicago White Sox five games to three. It was later discovered that eight of the White Sox players, including Shoeless Joe Jackson, conspired to throw the World Series, and were later banned for life by commissioner Keneesaw Mountain Landis. Claimed as the "Miracle Man of Baseball" Moran later stated that even if the Series had not been fixed, his team would have still defeated the White Sox.

Over the next four seasons Moran guided the Reds to two second place finishes, a third place finish and suffered his only losing season with the Reds in 1921 when the team finished 70-84. Over the winter of 1923-24 Moran came down with Bright's disease, an acute inflammation of the kidneys, and died on March 7, 1924 in Orlando, Florida as he was preparing for the Reds' spring training.

His memorial plaque was dedicated shortly after his death as a tribute to, as the plaque states, a man who "played the game according to the rules". So the next time you're driving through west Fitchburg, be sure to stop by and pay tribute to Fitchburg's fielder of dreams.

Michael J. Poirier will return next semester to resume his contribution as the Sports Editor of The Strobe.

Upcoming FSC action

Thurs Dec 5

Men's Basketball vs. WNEC

Home 8:00

Women's Basketball vs. UMass-Boston

Home 6:00

Hockey vs. Framingham State

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Home 7:30

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Weekly wrap-up

Going into last night's Sterling Cup matchup against Worcester State College the Falcons have gone 0-4-1 over their last five games after starting the season 2-0. The Falcons lost both their games in the Police Athletic Tournament held this past weekend in Manchester, NH. The team lost to New England College 7-6 (ot) in the first round and to New Hampshire College (6-1) in the consolation game. Dan Genatossio and Joe Centrella currently lead the team with 19 points, while freshman Jeff DuRoss leads the team with 10 goals. Defenseman Damon Moore, currently with 15 points, is shooting

for the FSC single season record for points by a defenseman (35 - John Andrews 1981-82). Moore had 32 points last year for the Falcons. The Falcons will play their next two games at home against Framingham State (7:30) and Roger Williams University (3:30).

After capturing their first win of the season against the Mass. College of Pharmacy, the Men's basketball team lost a heart-breaker against Wentworth Institute 79-76 in overtime. George Alexander (18 pts) sent the game into overtime with a three pointer in the closing seconds, but Wentworth outscored the Falcons 9-6 in the extra frame. Other strong performances were



Dan Genatossio wins the face off for the Falcons

turned by Ishmael Gelpi (17 pts), Tony Whelan (13 pts, 10

rbs) and Tom Levett (10 pts, 7 rbs). The men will play Western

New England at home Thursday night. The game starts at 8:00.

photo by summer paul

Athlete of the week

Brandy LeBlanc was named athlete of the week for her contribution to the LadyFalcons strong start this year. LeBlanc scored 14 points in FSC's 75-35 victory against Lesley College. LeBlanc, a freshman this year, went 5 for 6 from the field, had 5 rebounds and also tallied 10 assists in the game. The LadyFalcons who had only one win over their last two seasons, already have three wins going

into last night's game against UMass-Dartmouth.

Last week's athlete of the week was women's basketball star Sarah Harding, who along with LeBlanc and co-captain Diane Horwath (12 pts, 5 rbs and 3 assists), had 13 points and 5 assists of her own in the FSC victory over Lesley. The week previous, Harding was named MVP of the Atlantic Union College Touna-



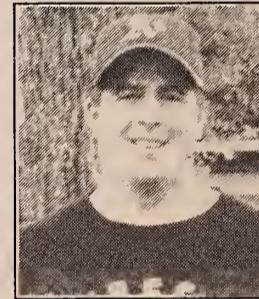
ment averaging 13.5 points per game in leading FSC to the Tournament championship.

Sports quote of the week

"Well - it's our game; America's game, has the snap, go, fling of the American atmosphere; it belongs as much to our institutions, fits into them as significantly, as our constitution's laws; is just as important as the sum total of our historic life."

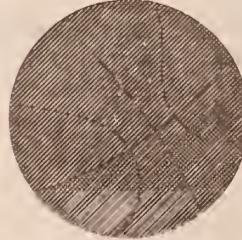
Walt Whitman on baseball

Intramural corner *The photo gallery*



Brian Bicknell
Intramural Director

Women's Intramural Football
Members of Sudden Death and their coaches pose for a shot.
Photo by Kathy Geoghegan



Mens Intramural B-ball
The CBCs warm up for a game in Parkinson Gymnasium
Photo by Kathy Geoghegan



The three Umpires by Norman Rockwell